

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Due to the length of the specification herein, Applicants will cite to the paragraph number of the published patent application (PG Pub) of the present application, i.e., US 2004/0063366, when discussing the application description, both in this section and in the Remarks section, *infra*, rather than to page and line of the specification as filed.

Claim 1 has been amended by inserting that elastomeric polymer A is selected from the group consisting of a polyurethane and an acryl-polyurethane composite elastomeric polymer, the latter being supported in the specification at paragraphs [0086] and [0093]; by inserting that the elastomeric polymer A is transparent when made into a cast film, as supported in the specification at paragraphs [0085] and [0151]; by inserting how the acryl-polyurethane composite elastomeric polymer is obtained, as described in the specification at paragraph [0094]; by inserting a carboxy group-containing diol as a reactant in the formation of the polyurethane, deleting "as the sole components" with respect to the polyurethane, and inserting that the crosslinking agent reacts with the carboxy group of the polyurethane, as supported in the specification at paragraphs [0092] and [0095]; by deleting a superfluous Markush group with regard to the crosslinking agent; and by correcting the spelling of various compounds.

No new matter is believed to have been added by the above amendment. Claims 1, 4, 6-12 and 17-24 remain active in the application; Claims 13-15 stand withdrawn from consideration, but are subject to rejoinder.

REMARKS

The rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-12 and 17-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement, is respectfully traversed. The Examiner's basis is his finding that the recited crosslinking agent in Claim 1 requires two parts: a first crosslinking group and a monomer, and raises further questions about the crosslinking agent.

In reply, it is now clear from above-amended Claim 1 that the crosslinking agent reacts with the carboxyl group of the polyurethane and that it has one of six particular groups specifically recited in the claim. Note furthermore that the polyurethane is now recited as being obtained from the reaction of the recited components, including a carboxyl group-containing diol.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-12 and 17-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement, is respectfully traversed. The Examiner's basis is his finding that Claim 1 recites a crosslinking agent that has an oxazoline group, ... or hydrazide group; and another group selected from a Markush group of various (meth)acrylates and divinylbenzene.

In reply, such (meth)acrylates and divinylbenzene were erroneously included in the previous amendment, and have now been deleted from the claims. The rejection would now appear to be moot. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-12 and 17-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite, is respectfully traversed. The Examiner finds that it is unclear which components are being reacted or in what order they are reacted to form the elastomeric polymer A, or polyurethane.

In reply, it is now clear in above-amended Claim 1 that the polyurethane is obtained from the reaction of a diisocyanate component, a polymeric polyol component, a chain extender and a carboxyl group-containing diol, and that the polyurethane is crosslinked with a crosslinking agent which reacts with the carboxyl group introduced into the polyurethane. The rejection would now appear to be moot. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

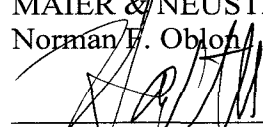
All of the presently active claims in this application are now believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to rejoin the non-elected method claims, and in the absence of further grounds of rejection, pass this application to issue with all pending claims.

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